

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**October 23, 2014**  
**9 a.m., MHS Auditorium**  
**Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Crystal Wong Shors, Steve Lozar, Bob Brown, Jim Murry, Kent Kleinkopf, Tom Nygard, Janene Caywood, Jude Sheppard, Shirley Groff, Jim Court and Ed Smith

**Excused Board members were:** Cliff Edwards, Jim Utterback, George Dennison and Ed Jasmin

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Membership, Rebecca Baumann; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Amanda Streeter Trum; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Volunteer Coordinator, Katie White; MHS Research Center, Brian Shovers; MHS SHPO Federal Grants Manager, Robb McCracken; MHS SHPO Cultural Records Assistant, Steffany Meredyk; MHS SHPO Historical Compliance Officer, Jessica Bush; Curator of History, Margarete Ordon; MHS Guest Services, Faith Franklin; Research Program Newspaper Archivist Tina Kirkham introduced Project Assistant, Natasha Hollenbach

**Guests present:** Voices of Tourism Director, Mike Garcia; and State Auditor, Chandell VanDonsel; 1:30 p.m. Chase and Emily Hibbard, and John Baucus

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Crystal Wong Shors called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Bob Brown moved approval of the July 24, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Nygard and carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Motion - Crystal Wong Shors**

President Shors reported on the great attendance at the MHS History Conference.

She reported on her attendance at the budget interim committee hearing where Bruce testified. Ed Jasmin and Bob Brown attended the hearing also.

President Shors encouraged Board members who have not contributed to the proposed Heritage Center to do so in order to show 100% participation towards this endeavor. She also emphasized the importance of the Board speaking from one strong voice.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce highlighted the schedule of public programs taking place for “Year of the 150s” stating that the activities are in full gear now. November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Woman’s History Matters in the rotunda of the capitol with Martha Kohl as the project’s champion. He reminded Board members that November 15<sup>th</sup> will be the “*Montana’s Charlie Russell, Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*” book release reception.

Bruce asked Program Managers that have new employees to introduce them. Mark Baumler introduced Steffany Meredyk, Jessica Bush and Robb McCracken. Denise King introduced Faith Franklin. Molly Kruckenberg was on vacation. Tina Kirkham introduced Natasha Hollenbach. Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney was on vacation and Amanda Trum Streeter introduced Margarete Odon.

Bruce reported that building repairs and upgrades continue on the MHS building and that new stone tiles were recently installed at the outside entrance of MHS. Major exterior art conservation work is completed including the “Symbol of the Pros,” on the NE corner of the MHS building, the Meagher statue on the Capitol lawn, the Herd Bull, and the Liberty Bell on the SW corner of the MHS building.

Bruce announced that word was received that Kirby Lambert will be a 2015 Governor’s Humanities Awardee.

#### **Executive Committee Meeting-Tom Nygard**

Tom stated that the executive committee discussed the items highlighted by Bruce Whittenberg in the Director’s report.

He emphasized the importance of Board members speaking with one strong voice being in concert to help bring the Montana Heritage Center to fruition.

#### **Mike Garcia, Director/Voices of Montana Tourism**

Mike presented a handout of a proposal for including MHS in the annual accommodations & rental vehicle sales tax revenues (handout made a permanent part of the record). Mike gave background information for the organization titled Voices of Montana Tourism. He noted that Montana tourism has grown considerably since 2007 and encouraged the MHS to participate.

#### **Marketing and Development – Motion - Susan Near**

Susan reported that activities in the development office for the last quarter have been profitable. The June appeal produced around \$12,000.00. She will be mailing out the next appeal November 15<sup>th</sup> with emphasis on the Historic Crow Photograph Collection fund. The MHS

signature event committee has met several times and is forming good fundraising ideas which she will share with the Board once a clear plan is presented.

Susan announced that MHS will be represented at the Helena downtown fall art walk. The Ghost Art Gallery and Becky Eiker have teamed up to raise funds for the proposed Heritage Center. She presented a handout titled "Read All About It" (handout made a permanent part of the record).

#### **Membership – Rebecca Baumann**

The month of November is become a member month. Rebecca presented a membership report (handout made a permanent part of the record). She noted that membership numbers are up.

#### **PR/Media – Tom Cook**

Tom discussed his role in getting press releases out for the Montana women's suffrage centennial and Brian Kahn's "Home Ground Radio" (handouts (2) made a permanent part of the record).

### **PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS**

#### **CENTRAL SERVICES – Motion Action - Denise King**

Financial Schedules for FY 2014 through June 30, 2014 and for FY 2015 through September 30, 2014 was distributed by Denise to the Board (handouts (2) made a permanent part of the record).

Denise announced that the 5% state employee pay increase will go into effect November 15<sup>th</sup>. She noted that Board approval was needed for Bruce Whittenberg's raise.

**Kent Kleinkopf moved approval of the 5% pay increase for Bruce Whittenberg. Steve Lozar seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Denise noted that the MHS store is going well and she thanked the Board members for their support.

#### **MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Amanda Streeter Trum**

The following show and tell items were displayed for the Board members by Amanda Trum: a very large, heavy, recently donated wooden beer keg (Kessler Brewery) and a 1897 package of Chinese incense which will be included in the upcoming exhibit titled, "forgotten pioneers".

#### **RESEARCH CENTER- Motion Action – Deaccession Request - Brian Shovers**

Brian Shovers presented the September, 2014 deaccession request list (handout made a permanent part of the record).

**Jim Court moved approval of the September, 2014 Deaccession List Request. Jim Murry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

### **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler**

Mark presented the Montana Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/State Historic Preservation Officer/Federal & State Agency Summit May 20 – 21, 2014 and the Montana's Shared Heritage Biennial Report (handouts (2) made a permanent part of the record). He discussed the Summit he attended and noted that the top recommendation was that this summit should occur on a regular basis.

### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Katie White**

Katie highlighted the Friends of the Society by-laws noting they have their own Board. The Board consists of 10 members and they serve a two-year term. MHS has 140 volunteers and on an average they donate between 500-600 hours per month to the Society or about 7,500 hours a year. The Friends also donate grant funds to the MHS Program (handout (1) made a permanent part of the record).

### **PUBLICATIONS – Motion - Molly Holz**

Molly announced the good news that the C. M. Russell book has been completed and the color and printing of it is perfect. Collector editions will be available and the store is now taking orders. The book idea was first proposed in 1958. A reception is planned and many book signings have been scheduled.

### **Executive Session – Board Members and Director Bruce Whittenberg**

Trustees met with Bruce to conduct his yearly job performance evaluation.

### **Committee Reports**

Government Relations - Bob Brown

Bob stated it was a great time to be a legislator. He reminded the Trustees that they need to be flexible and patient, that is how the new Montana Heritage Center will be built.

Donor Relations - Ed Jasmin

Ed reported that the committee met with 25 contacts as of February and it has received 8 new pledges.

### **1:30 P.M. – Guest Announcement**

John Baucus, Chase and Emily Hibbard descendants of legendary Montana pioneer and stockman Henry Sieben pledged \$500,000.00 for the planned Montana Heritage Center with the understanding that the Legislature will provide major funding for the building.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Motion Action**

Janene Caywood asked that the process of reviewing and selecting Heritage Keepers awardees be opened up to the full Board rather than the current three member committee. Discussion took

place on creating a ranking procedure for nominating applications and to have the review of applications during the April Board meeting.

**Kent Kleinkopf moved to open up the process of selection for the Heritage Keepers awards to the entire Board of Trustees during the April Board meeting with procedures for ranking the nominations and selecting of the winners. Jude Sheppard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bob Brown requested that new Trustee name badges be ordered.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – January 22, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

2:20 p.m.